

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A facsimile apparatus for carrying out facsimile communication by an instruction from a computer, comprising:

means for notifying a computer of confidential reception of content when the facsimile apparatus has performed the confidential reception, said computer being supposed to carry out confidential processing;

means for receiving a demand from the computer to transmit the confidentially received content to the computer; and

means for transmitting the confidentially received content in accordance with a the demand from said computer,

wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption and decryption by using an encryption key produced based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and said computer at the time of carrying out communication with said computer via a network.

2. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 1, further including selecting means for selecting a part to be encrypted by the encryption key from the content to be transmitted to said computer which is supposed to carry out confidential processing, wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption in accordance with the selection of the selection means.

3. (Currently amended) A facsimile apparatus for carrying out facsimile communication by an instruction from a computer, comprising:

means for carrying out confidential reception of content;

means for notifying the computer of the confidential reception;

means for receiving a demand from the computer to transmit the confidentially received content to the computer; and

means for transmitting the confidentially received content as electronic mail to a the computer which is supposed to carry out confidential processing only after the demand is received,

wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption and decryption by using an encryption key produced based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and said computer at the time of carrying out communication with said computer via a network.

4. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 3, further including selecting means for selecting a part to be encrypted by the encryption key from the content to be transmitted to said computer which is supposed to carry out confidential processing, wherein the facsimile apparatus performs encryption in accordance with the selection of the selecting means.

5. (Currently amended) A facsimile apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving facsimile data from a channel, wherein said receiving means is capable of carrying out confidential reception of facsimile data, and when confidential facsimile data is received, the facsimile apparatus transmits to a designated forwarding destination a communication message to the effect that confidential reception of facsimile data has been carried out;

encrypting means for encrypting the facsimile data by a common key produced based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and a the designated forwarding destination; and

forwarding means for forwarding the encrypted facsimile data to the designated forwarding destination via a computer network, wherein when the facsimile apparatus receives from the designated forwarding destination, after transmitting the communication message, a demand for sending of the confidential facsimile data, the forwarding means forwards the confidential facsimile data to the forwarding destination.

6. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said channel is a telephone line.

7. (Currently amended) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein ~~said receiving means is capable of carrying out confidential reception, and~~ when the confidential reception of the facsimile data is carried out, the facsimile data is encrypted by said encrypting means.

8. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said forwarding means utilizes electronic mail protocol.

9. (Currently amended) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, wherein ~~said receiving means is capable of carrying out confidential reception, and when the confidential reception of data is carried out,~~ the facsimile apparatus ~~produces a communication message to the effect that the confidential reception has been carried out, and~~ transmits the communication message as electronic mail to the designated forwarding destination.

10. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the facsimile apparatus encrypts the communication message by using said common key.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The facsimile apparatus according to claim ~~11~~ 9, wherein the facsimile apparatus receives a pass code together with said demand from the designated forwarding destination, judges whether or not the pass code is correct, and forwards the confidentially received facsimile data to the forwarding destination when the pass code is correct.

13. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, further including producing means for producing said common key based on peculiar information of the facsimile apparatus and the designated forwarding destination.

14. (Original) The facsimile apparatus according to claim 5, further including selecting means for selecting a part to be encrypted by said common key from the received facsimile data, wherein the facsimile apparatus encrypts the facsimile data in accordance with the selection of the selecting means.

15. (Currently amended) A method of facsimile communication comprising the steps of:

receiving confidential facsimile data from a channel;
producing a common key based on peculiar information of a receiving side and a designated forwarding destination;
notifying the designated forwarding destination that the confidential facsimile data has been received;
encrypting the confidential facsimile data by said common key; and
forwarding the encrypted confidential facsimile data to the designated forwarding destination from the receiving side via a computer network, wherein the encrypted confidential facsimile data is sent to the designated forwarding destination only after, in response to the notification, a demand to forward the confidential facsimile data was received from the designated forwarding destination.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said channel is a telephone line.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, further including the step of selecting a part to be encrypted by said common key from the received facsimile data, wherein encryption of the facsimile data is carried out in accordance with the selection.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein said common key is produced by ~~the~~ a ID-NIKS system.

19. (Currently amended) A storing medium for storing a program to be executed by a computer, comprising:

program code means for making a computer receive confidential facsimile data from a channel;

program code means for making the computer produce a common key based on peculiar information of a receiving side of the facsimile data and a designated forwarding destination;

program code means for making the computer notify the designated forwarding destination that the confidential facsimile has been received;

program code means for making the computer encrypt said confidential facsimile data by said common key; and

program code means for making the computer forward the encrypted confidential facsimile data to the designated forwarding destination from the receiving side via a computer network, wherein the encrypted confidential facsimile data is sent to the designated forwarding destination only after, in response to the notification, a demand to forward the confidential facsimile data was received from the designated forwarding destination.

20. (Original) The storing medium according to claim 19, wherein said channel is a telephone line.